



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Week Ending September 25, 2005

Issued weekly, April-November

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This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa

Good Week for Field Work: It was another dry week in the Keystone State with minimal rainfall reported. Dry conditions continue to put stress on crops and pastures with little relief in the forecast. Overall, 6 days were suitable for field work, and principal farm activities included plowing, haymaking, harvesting apples, planting barley and wheat, harvesting corn, cutting silage, and filling silos.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending September 25, 2005

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
49	41	10	0

Crops: Fall plowing is now 39 percent complete; 6 percent ahead of the 5-year average. Sixty-five percent of the soybean crop is now dropping leaves, ahead of last year's pace. Soybean conditions decreased from last week as 52 percent of the crop is now rated as either good or excellent. Ninety-four percent of the corn crop is at or beyond the dented stage, and 73 percent of the crop is mature. Both crop stages are ahead of the 5-year average and last year's pace. Twenty-five percent of the crop is now harvested. The corn silage harvest is in full swing and is now 88 percent complete, well ahead of the 5-year average. Eighty-eight percent of potatoes are now harvested. Fifty-seven percent of next year's barley crop is planted and 33 percent of the crop is already emerged. Both are well ahead of the historic pace. Eleven percent of winter wheat has been planted. Seventy-four percent of the 4th cutting of alfalfa is now complete. The quality of hay made this week was very good and was rated with the following: 1 percent very poor, 2 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 43 percent good, and 31 percent excellent.

Eighty-eight percent of apples are rated as either good or excellent. Forty-two percent of apples are now harvested.

Livestock: Pasture conditions rated with the following: 31 percent very poor, 47 percent poor, 17 percent fair and 5 percent good.

U.S. as of September 18, 2005: Highlights: Above-normal temperatures prevailed from the Great Plains eastward, exceeding 6 degrees Fahrenheit above normal across the northern Corn Belt. Corn and soybeans matured rapidly in the Corn Belt, while moderate rainfall supported crop conditions. Hurricane Ophelia lingered just off the North Carolina coast for much of the week, bringing heavy rainfall to coastal areas, but elsewhere along the middle and southern Atlantic Coast, conditions were mostly dry. Corn: Ninety-six percent of the crop was in the dent stage or beyond, 12 percentage points ahead of last year and 5 points ahead of the 5-year average. Maturation, at 57 percent, was 17 points ahead of last year and 4 points ahead of normal. Meanwhile, harvest advanced to 11 percent complete, 2 points ahead of last year but the same as the 5-year average. Growers had begun reaping their crop in all States, except North Dakota. Soybeans: Acreage dropping leaves advanced to 64 percent, compared with 49 percent last year and 53 percent for the 5-year average. Meanwhile, growers had harvested 8 percent of their acreage, the same as last year but 2 points ahead of normal. Winter Wheat: Planting reached 25 percent complete, 2 points behind last year but 3 points ahead of normal. Planting had begun in all States and was ahead of the normal pace everywhere except in North Carolina, Oklahoma, and Washington.

Weather Data For Week Ending September 25, 2005

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - September 25, 2005					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	81	52	69	7	1.16	2	17.80	-4.17	58	2,867	450	4,461
Franklin	81	50	64	5	0.56	3	20.50	-3.69	94	2,567	323	4,209
Meadville	79	51	65	7	1.19	2	20.97	-3.15	67	2,664	607	4,302
Mercer	82	51	65	6	0.55	3	21.57	-1.49	91	2,648	425	4,268
Springboro	80	45	63	2	1.11	3	22.76	1.36	74	2,427	45	4,005
Warren	82	46	63	5	0.80	3	18.33	-5.95	69	2,528	355	4,150
North Central												
Bradford Region	76	40	61	7	0.17	4	21.52	-2.76	78	1,975	399	3,524
Emporium	82	45	64	8	0.20	4	14.81	-9.23	72	2,528	742	4,151
Kane	78	39	58	5	0.56	3	17.77	-6.92	63	1,899	356	3,439
Laporte	77	44	62	3	0.02	2	21.79	-0.56	77	2,296	73	3,875
Lock Haven	86	47	66	7	0.08	3	12.14	-9.87	61	2,895	534	4,568
Port Allegany	79	41	60	5	0.26	3	16.70	-6.27	63	2,169	431	3,722
Renovo	85	47	65	6	0.09	2	11.73	-10.28	57	2,847	486	4,519
Ridgway	80	45	62	6	0.18	3	18.32	-5.72	67	2,212	426	3,809
Stevenson Dam	82	47	65	9	0.01	1	15.06	-8.98	67	2,681	895	4,335
Towanda	84	43	64	6	0.06	3	15.60	-3.00	59	2,666	427	4,302
Wellsboro	78	42	60	5	0.03	1	20.56	1.89	58	2,139	460	3,691
Williamsport	83	47	68	8	0.00	0	20.90	-0.72	52	3,070	467	4,754
Northeast												
Hawley	83	40	62	5	0.01	1	15.84	-5.28	60	2,386	465	3,986
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	85	46	69	9	0.01	1	12.04	-8.47	57	3,157	688	4,841
Susquehanna	82	43	64	8	0.03	1	18.36	-4.15	69	2,547	726	4,164
West Central												
Butler	84	47	65	5	0.41	3	18.54	-4.33	67	2,693	365	4,377
New Castle	86	49	67	8	0.33	2	21.53	0.62	64	2,933	603	4,613
Slippery Rock	84	47	65	7	0.38	3	20.22	-2.07	68	2,727	634	4,421
Central												
Altoona/Blair	90	47	67	7	0.09	2	10.73	-9.15	47	2,648	174	4,311
DuBois	79	47	64	6	0.33	4	16.66	-6.33	84	2,482	341	4,127
Lewistown	89	52	69	7	0.03	1	15.91	-5.43	54	3,055	338	4,760
Middletown	88	56	73	9	0.00	0	15.92	-5.30	49	3,555	489	5,300
Prince Gallitzi	86	42	63	5	0.04	2	15.75	-9.89	70	2,342	349	3,958
Selinsgrove	86	50	68	7	0.01	1	17.07	-5.11	55	2,951	411	4,636
State College	86	51	65	6	0.12	3	11.69	-8.40	63	2,881	441	4,575
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	86	50	70	9	0.00	0	18.97	-4.28	58	3,196	394	4,915
Lehighton	82	51	66	5	0.00	0	18.92	-4.16	59	2,890	189	4,588
Matamoras	82	45	64	5	0.02	1	20.62	-2.73	67	2,577	136	4,216
Tobyhanna	84	50	67	12	0.00	0	21.80	-3.05	86	2,849	1,182	4,535
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	86	54	69	9	0.05	3	15.39	-5.79	71	3,219	729	4,948
Derry	84	54	67	8	0.00	0	19.14	-2.96	58	2,752	400	4,438
Myersdale	84	44	63	3	0.00	0	15.74	-8.34	59	2,154	-166	3,747
Mount Pleasant	86	48	66	7	0.07	1	20.42	-4.72	73	2,669	565	4,358
Pittsburgh Intl	84	52	69	7	0.22	1	19.11	-0.82	63	3,065	458	4,777
Rector	85	52	67	8	0.25	3	18.84	-6.30	88	2,686	582	4,372
Waynesburg	87	50	68	8	0.24	3	16.76	-5.00	61	2,793	376	4,491
South Central												
Biglerville	87	52	70	7	0.00	0	20.33	0.32	59	3,138	142	4,861
Everett	90	47	65	5	0.03	1	10.86	-8.46	54	2,235	-233	3,854
Hanover	89	50	70	6	0.00	0	20.37	0.36	52	3,117	121	4,831
Shippensburg	89	52	70	7	0.00	0	19.88	0.37	64	3,178	200	4,889
South Mountain	84	52	66	6	0.01	1	19.19	-0.69	54	2,690	223	4,413
York	89	47	71	7	0.00	0	14.15	-7.25	45	3,150	166	4,863
Southeast												
Green Lane	87	54	70	9	0.00	0	17.32	-5.20	53	3,193	512	4,919
Hamburg	86	51	70	10	0.00	0	18.36	-7.54	52	3,191	745	4,911
Hopewell	87	53	70	6	0.00	0	21.19	-2.41	76	3,207	56	4,935
Lancaster	87	52	72	10	0.00	0	20.02	-2.64	53	3,279	445	5,003
Neshaminy Falls	87	53	70	8	0.00	0	21.17	-4.91	48	3,034	234	4,735
New Holland	89	57	72	10	0.00	0	17.20	-5.46	51	3,360	526	5,088
Philadelphia	89	60	75	10	0.00	0	16.94	-5.17	50	3,741	485	5,508
Philadelphia NE	91	57	74	8	0.00	0	19.99	-2.12	52	3,635	379	5,391
Reading	87	52	72	10	0.00	0	16.71	-7.50	54	3,433	649	5,163
Valley Forge Na	90	52	71	6	0.00	0	17.84	-5.76	41	3,064	-87	4,760
Willow Grove	86	59	72	10	0.00	0	16.99	-9.09	39	3,361	561	5,103

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A. Behney (FSA) - It continues to be very dry. No rainfall has been received for the month of September. Most days have been 80 degrees and sunny and evenings around 60 degrees. Some rainfall is critical for alfalfa, barley, and wheat plantings. They need moisture to help the crops sprout. Crops are looking pretty good. Corn is drying quickly with silage being harvested but some that was going to be silage now is too dry and will be taken for grain. Silage yields are averaging higher than previous years. Some early soybeans are starting to be harvested with soybean leaves dropping rapidly on other soybeans. Some areas that had 7 inches of rainfall in early August in the county the soybeans were affected by the strong winds that caused the soybeans stalks to blow down and will make for interesting combining of soybeans. Double cropped soybeans are still maturing. Apples continue to be harvested. The county will have lots of visitors to the Apple Harvest Festival the first two weekends in October. The hot temperatures and sun can be causing some scalding of apples.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier (EXT) - Early corn is yielding well and drying down nicely. Longer season corn has not yielded quite as well due to lack of moisture and heat during pollination. Most are not planting any wheat until we get some rain.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - Many small streams are dry or have little flow. The county continues to be very dry.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dan McCarty (AgChoice) - At the Bloomsburg Fair a grower stated that only harvesting 25 bushel corn. This is a tough year in some areas.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - Another good field week in the county. Much of the corn has been harvested for corn silage and some farmers have planted rye for a fall cover crop on these fields. Yield reports have been better than expected. Only a few areas in the county suffered from lack of rain.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Jim Collom - The rainfall that the weatherman promised hasn't materialized yet. Second crop beans are starting to turn. They are looking pretty rough.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul Craig (EXT) - Drought conditions continue to get worse. Silage harvest nearly completed. Crop is drying down rapidly. Corn grain harvest is proceeding rapidly. Busy time in the fields but everyone is looking forward to some moisture from Rita.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - Many farmers are very happy with quality and yields from corn silage. The corn crop for the most part matured much earlier than normal. Soybeans appear to be in excellent condition. Due to short pasture use, many farmers are supplementing winter feed.

JUNIATA COUNTY, Greg Hostetter (EXT) - Corn and soybeans continue to dry down extremely fast. Very dry soil conditions.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr (NRCS) - Soybean harvest started. Corn silage harvest is winding down. Corn grain is drying down fast and harvest is in full swing. Some cover crops are emerging, but still need moisture for germination. Tobacco harvest is almost complete.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Axel Linde - Since school started, only 0.5 inch of rain. Tough to get fall-seedings of alfalfa, pastures and cover crops started. Corn harvest is going strong with favorable yields and moisture content. Some beans are harvested too.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT) - Another unseasonably warm and dry week. Corn moisture is around 20 percent in fields that are being harvested. Soybeans are getting close to harvest. Some wheat and rye has been planted, but many are waiting for a little moisture.

PERRY COUNTY, David Swartz (EXT) - Extremely dry weather has greatly advanced crop harvest. Some producers, especially those depending on custom harvesters, could not get their corn harvested for silage before it dried to the point of being too dry for silage. Corn producers are now shelling full season varieties and placing the corn in bin storage without putting it through a dryer. There has been no fall flush of pasture grass.

SNYDER COUNTY, William Sheaffer - It has been another dry week. The corn harvest is beginning with reported yields being better than expected in spite of the hot dry weather. The barley and wheat is being planted, and some fields are showing signs of emergence. The main activities were planting wheat and barley, silo filling, harvesting corn and making machinery repairs.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, Chuck Shrump (NRCS) - Livestock producers are expressing concern over the production of spring fed water sources. The water supplies are not recovering in a timely manner according to people in the county.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - Another week with no rain. Because of continued warm, dry conditions, some early-April planted corn is already being harvested as dry shelled corn with above average yields being reported. Later plantings will not do as well. Grass growth has almost stopped requiring increased feeding of livestock on pasture.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending September 25, 2005

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	39	30	33
Corn, dent	94	92	84
Corn, mature	73	58	43
Corn, harvested	25	22	15
Corn silage, harvested	88	73	63
Barley, planted	57	41	31
Barley, emerged	33	13	11
Wheat, planted	19	14	14
Potatoes, harvested	88	63	62
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	74	44	54
Apples, harvested	42	67	49
Grapes, harvested	25	28	26

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending September 25, 2005

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	6	12	31	39	12
Soybeans	3	10	35	39	13
Quality of hay made	1	2	23	43	31
Pasture	31	47	17	5	0
Apples	2	2	8	32	56

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